Department of State EXCISE

37-M 2890 Control: Action Rec'd: November 8, 1962 ARA 1:56 p.m. FROM: Caracas Info SS Secretary of State TO: G SP NO: 560, November 8, noon L SAL IO NIACT INR NSA

DEPARTMENT PASS ARMY, NAVY, AIR, POLADS CINCARIB AND CINCLANT

ACTION DEPARTMENT 560 INFORMATION BOGOTA 23

Reference: EMBTEL 550 and 559.

two Venezuelan destroyers will put out from Puertc Cabeelo at noon today and put in to La Guaira at 1830 on way to report to COMSOLANT at Trinidad to participate in Cuban quarantine.

This has not been announced nor has President informed me to Tuesday's still unpublished Cabinet approval of decree authorizing participation, as it was indicated to Embassy he would do. President has been holed up in Miraflores Palace, where he usually goes in times trouble, for most last of 48 hours, and have not been able reach him.

President's action and presumably delay in announcing Venezuelan participation Cuban quarantine, apparently connected with Rightist plotting of still unclear dimensions in armed forces. In past few days Navy Captain Andres De La Rosa, Commanders Pablo Conde Ecarri and Alvaro Del Castillo Jantzen, and reportedly Captain Orlando Medina Sauce, director of Naval War College, have been arrested as have Air Force Captain Marquez Garcia pilot and aid to Defense Minister General Brinceno and Sermano Lopez. Possibly other arrests also

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MB

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-2- 560, November 8, noon, from Caracas

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Exact nature of plot and cause for alarm not yet known.

However General Briceno known to have made hurried trip
to Maracay Air Force Base on November 6. General Staff
and Army Headquarters put on full alert that night and police
also put on alert on November 7. However, staff and Army
Headquarters put back to 50 percent alert late yesterday and
situation surface normal.

Will see President as soon as he is able receive me.

Loss pressure Mobil pipeline reported yesterday proved to be instrument failure, not sabotage.

STEWART

DMB

Note: Relayed to Army, Navy, Air, POLAD CINCARIB, POLAD CINCLANT OSD, CIA 11/8/62

NOTE: Advance copies to Mr. Moskowith (ARA) and SS 11-8-62 CWO-M

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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